

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail address change notification deputization system that provides notification about a client's e-mail address change ~~notification~~ to a sender of an ~~—~~e-mail after the sender sends an e-mail to a the client, the system comprising:

a first provider server in which a first e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set;

a second provider server in which a second e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set; and

an address change notification deputization service server,

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail that is sent to said first mail address to said second provider server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said second provider server transfers an e-mail that has been transferred from said first provider server to said address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said address change notification deputization service server checks the path taken by ~~of~~ the e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server ~~that has been transferred from said second provider server~~ and makes a notification to the sender of the e-mail to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said

second mail address only in the case that this e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred by said first provider server,

~~wherein said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification, to said client, of path information indicating whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

2. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein said address change notification deputization service server is provided with an e-mail header analyzing means of extracting and analyzing the e-mail header from said transferred e-mail, and

wherein said e-mail header analyzing means checks said path by analyzing the e-mail header of said e-mail.

3. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein a terminal of said client receives said e-mail from said second provider server, and

the e-mail received by the terminal of said client has the same contents as of the e-mail transferred to said address change notification deputization service server.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein said address change notification deputization service server has e-mail addresses of a predetermined one or a plurality of senders that send an e-mail to said client, and

wherein the operation of making said notification is stopped when all the e-mails sent from the e-mail addresses of said senders have been confirmed to be received by said second provider server without passing through said first provider server.

7. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein said address change notification deputization service server simultaneously sends a program for rewriting said first e-mail addresses of said client that is inscribed in an address book of the receivers of said notification to said second mail addresses at the time when carrying out the operation of making said notification.

8. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein in the case that a sender of an e-mail to said client is an information distributor, said sender make a contract with the manager of said address change notification deputization service server such that said information distributor spontaneously switches said first e-mail addresses for said client to said second e-mail addresses in the case that said information distributor receives said notification from said address change notification deputization service server.

9. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 8, wherein a terminal of said information distributor is provided with a means of switching the addresses of said client to the second e-mail addresses in the case that said notification is received from the manager of said address change notification deputization service server who has made said contract.

10. (Currently Amended) An address change notification deputization service server that provides notification about a client's e-mail address change ~~notification~~ to a sender of an e-mail after the sender sends an e-mail to the to a the client, the server comprising:

wherein when a first provider server in which a first e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set receives an e-mail that is sent to said first e-mail address this e-mail is transferred to a second provider server in which a second mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set and, then, when said second provider server receives an e-mail transferred from said first provider server said address change notification deputization service server receives this transfer,

wherein the path taken by of the e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server ~~transferred from said second provider server~~ is checked and only in the case that this e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred from said first provider server, said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said second mail address to the sender of this e-mail.

~~wherein said client is informed of path information concerning whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or is sent directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

11. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, comprising an e-mail header analyzing means of extracting and analyzing an e-mail header from said transferred e-mail,

wherein said e-mail header analyzing means analyzes the e-mail header of said e-mail so as to check said path.

12. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, wherein a terminal of said client receives said e-mail from said second provider server, and

wherein the e-mail received by the terminal of said client has the same contents as of the e-mail that is transferred to said address change notification deputization service server.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, having e-mail addresses of a predetermined sender, or a plurality of sender, that send an e-mail to said client,

wherein the operation of making said notification is stopped when all the e-mails sent from the e-mail addresses of said senders are confirmed to have been received by said second provider server without passing through said first provider server.

16. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, wherein a program for rewriting said first e-mail addresses of said client inscribed in an address book of the receivers of said notification to said second e-mail addresses is simultaneously sent at the time when the operation of making said notification is carried out.

17. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, wherein in the case that a sender of an e-mail to said client is an information distributor, a contract is made with said information distributor such that said information distributor spontaneously sets said first e-mail address for said client to said second e-mail addresses in the case of receiving said notification from said address change notification deputization service server.

18. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 17, wherein a terminal of said information distributor comprises a means of setting the addresses said client to the second e-mail addresses in the case that said notification is received from a manager of said address change notification deputization service server who has made said contract.

19. (Currently Amended) A second provider server comprising:

in which a second e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set, for receiving a transfer of an e-mail to said client from a first provider server in which a first e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set,

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail sent to said first e-mail address to said second provider server when receiving this e-mail,

wherein said second provider server transfers an e-mail transferred from said first provider server to an address change notification deputization service server when receiving this e-mail,

wherein said address change notification deputization service server checks the path ~~of taken by the~~ e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server transferred from said second provider server and makes a notification to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said second e-mail address to the sender of said e-mail when this e-mail is received by said second provider server after sent from said first provider server.

~~wherein said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification, to said client, of path information indicating whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A terminal of a client who has made contracts with a first provider server wherein a first e-mail address is maintained as valid in the server as set and with a second provider server wherein a second e-mail address is maintained as valid in the server as set,

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail sent to said first e-mail address to said second provider server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said second provider server transfers an e-mail transferred from said first provider server to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said address change notification deputization service server checks the path taken by of an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server transferred from said second provider server and makes a notification to a sender of the e-mail to the effect that the e-mail address of the client is said second e-mail address only in the case that the e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred from said first provider server.<sup>17</sup>

~~wherein said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification, to said client, of path information indicating whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A terminal of a sender who sends an e-mail to either a first provider server wherein a first e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set or to a second provider server wherein a second e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set,

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail sent to said first e-mail address to said second provider server upon receiving this e-mail while said second provider server transfers an e-mail sent from said first provider to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said address change notification deputization service server checks the path taken by of an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server transferred from said second provider server and, thereby, the terminal of the sender receives a notification to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said second e-mail address from said address change notification deputization service server only in the case that said e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred from said first provider;

~~wherein said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification, to said client, of path information indicating whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

22. (Currently Amended) An e-mail address change notification deputization method for providing notification about a client's e-mail address change ~~notification~~ to a sender of an e-mail after the sender send an e-mail to a the client, the method comprising the steps of:



using a first provider server wherein a first e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set and a second provider server wherein a second e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set, comprising:

the step of allowing said first provider server to transfer an e-mail that is sent to said first e-mail address to said second provider server upon receiving this e-mail;

the step of allowing said second provider server to transfer an e-mail that is transferred from said first provider server to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said address change notification deputization service server checks the path taken by of an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server that is transferred from said second provider and makes a notification to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said second e-mail address to the sender of the e-mail only in the case that the e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred from said first provider server<sub>72</sub>

~~wherein said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification, to said client, of path information indicating whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

23. (Currently Amended) An address change notification deputization service method for providing notification about a client's e-mail address change

~~notification~~ to a sender of an e-mail after the send sends an e-mail to a the client,  
the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a transfer of an e-mail from a second provider server when the second provider server receives the e-mail transferred from a first provider server after the first provider server receives the e-mail that is sent to a first e-mail address and, then, transfers this e-mail to said second provider server, wherein a first e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set in said first provider server while a second e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set in said second provider server,

wherein the path taken by of the e-mail through the sender's e-mail server,  
the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server  
~~transferred from said second provider server~~ is checked and a notification to the sender of the e-mail is made to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said second e-mail address only in the case that the e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred from said first provider server<sub>7,2</sub>

~~wherein said client is informed of path information concerning whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or is sent directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

24. (Currently Amended) An e-mail reception method, comprising the steps of:

wherein a second provider server in which a second e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set receives a transfer of an e-mail to

said client from a first provider server in which a first e-mail address of the client is maintained as valid in the server as set,

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail sent to said first e-mail address to said second provider server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said second provider server transfers an e-mail transferred from said first provider server to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said address change notification deputization service server checks the path taken by of an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server transferred from said second provider server and makes a notification to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said second e-mail address to the sender of the e-mail only in the case that the e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred from said first provider server;

~~wherein said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification, to said client, of path information indicating whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

25. (Currently Amended) An e-mail sending method comprising the steps of:

sending an e-mail to either a first provider server in which a first e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set or to a second provider server in which a second e-mail address of said client is maintained as

valid in the server as set, wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail, which is sent to said first e-mail address, to said second provider server upon receiving this e-mail and said second provider server transfers an e-mail, which is transferred from said first provider, to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said address change notification deputization service server checks the path taken by of an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, the address change notification deputization service server and either the second provider server or both the first provider server and the second provider server transferred from said second provider server and, thereby, a notification is made by said address change notification deputization service server to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said second e-mail address only in the case that the e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred from said first provider<sub>7,1</sub>

~~wherein said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification, to said client, of path information indicating whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server, and~~

~~wherein said path information includes statistical results indicating whether a plurality of said e-mails were sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server.~~

26. (Original) A program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the first provider server in which the first e-mail address of the client is set, the second provider server in which the second e-mail address of said client is set and the address change notification deputization service server in the e-mail address change notification deputization system according to Claim 1.

27. (Original) A program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the address change notification deputization service server for receiving a transfer of an e-mail when a second provider server receives the e-mail that is transferred from a first provider server after said first provider server

receives the e-mail that is sent to a first mail address and, then, transfers this e-mail to said second provider server, wherein the first e-mail address of the client is set in said first provider server while the second e-mail address of said client is set in said second provider server according to Claim 10.

28. (Original) A program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the terminal of the sender who sends an e-mail to either the first provider server wherein the first e-mail address of the client is set or to the second provider server wherein the second e-mail address of said client is set according to Claim 21.

29. (Original) A medium that holds a program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the first provider server in which the first e-mail address of the client is set, the second provider server in which the second e-mail address of said client is set and the address change notification deputization service server in the e-mail address change notification deputization system according to Claim 1, wherein the medium can be processed by a computer.

30. (Original) A medium that holds a program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the address change notification deputization service server for receiving a transfer of an e-mail when a second provider server receives the e-mail that is transferred from a first provider server after said first provider server receives the e-mail that is sent to a first mail address and, then, transfers this e-mail to said second provider server, wherein the first e-mail address of the client is set in said first provider server while the second e-mail address of said client is set in said second provider server according to Claim 10, wherein the medium can be processed by a computer.

31. (Original) A medium that holds a program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the terminal of the sender who sends an e-mail to either the first provider server wherein the first e-mail address of the client is set or to the second provider server wherein the second e-mail address of said

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client is set according to Claim 21, wherein the medium can be processed by a computer.